

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 121540Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7751
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSIN USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1237

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY, US
SUBJECT: GOC WILLINGNESS TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MAY 12 MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT
(REPORTED SEPTTEL) I TOOK OCCASION TO URGE FONMIN ROLANDIS
TO BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS IN HIS AND
PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S CONVERSATIONS IN THEIR FORTHCOMING
VISIT TO U.S. I NOTED THAT CURRENT GOC POLICY APPEARS
NEGATIVE AND STERILE IN ITS OPPOSITION TO INTERCOMMUNAL
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ROLANDIS REJOINDER WAS THAT GOC CONTINUES TO BE READY
TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS BUT NOT ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT
TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS. HE CLAIMED GOC POLICY IS
POSITIVE. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO EMPHASIZE THIS ASPECT OF
GOC POLICY WHEN HE TALKS TO U.S. OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN
U.S.

COMMENT: IN ALL OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GREEK
CYPRIOT LEADERS WE STRESS THE DESIRABILITY OF BEGINNING
NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. THE CYPRIOTS
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RESPOND THAT THE ENTIRE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS OF THE
TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS IS SO INIMICAL THAT NEGOTIA-
TIONS WOULD BREAK DOWN AT AN EARLY DATE. IT SEEMS
THAT AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PROBLEM IN DISCUSSING
THIS WITH GREEK CYPRIOTS IS THAT WE PROCEED FROM DIA-
METRICALLY OPPOSING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS
OF THE TURKISH SIDE. WE BELIEVE THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS,

PRODDED BY GOT, ARE PREPARED TO IMPROVE THEIR PROPOSALS.
THE GOC BELIEVES THAT THE TURKS OPENING POSITIONS ARE
THE BEST THEY WILL OFFER. OUR ANALYSIS LEADS TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN ON
THE BASIS OF DISPARATE POSITIONS, WILL LEAD TO
PROGRESS. WE THINK THE GREEK CYPRIOTS SINCERELY
BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE, NAMELY THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE
CURRENT SITUATION COULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL AND WOULD
INEVITABLY LEAD TO AN EVEN WIDER GAP BETWEEN THE TWO
SIDES. END COMMENT.
STONE

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NNN

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